

The authors state on page 119 that:

"Scagel (1960) and Chihara (1960) indicated the "*Collinsiella*" may be a stage in the life history of a species of *Enteromorpha* and/or *Monostroma*."

It is correct that Scagel considered *Collinsiella* as a stage in the life history of *Enteromorpha*, but Chihara's work in no way suggests this. The three species investigated by Chihara have multicellular gametophytic stages which are cushion-shaped or open sacs whereas the sporophytic stage is a unicellular "zygocyst" resembling *Gomontia*. Nowhere does Chihara state that *Collinsiella* is a stage of *Monostroma*, although it is known that *Gomontia*-like stages occur in the life histories of some species of *Monostroma*.

In general the keys seem quite workable and are less troublesome than many of those in Smith. However, it should be noted that the second part of the third dichotomy of the green algae key (p. 748) is incorrect and confusing. The genera of the Prasinophyceae, Chaetophoraceae, Ulvaceae, Ulotrichaceae and Monostromataceae to which this choice leads are certainly not coenocytes.

The use of quotation marks with "Chlorochytrium" (dichotomy 30 of the master key of green algae) implies that the authors do not accept the genus as being taxonomically valid, probably because *C. inclusum* was shown to be the sporophytic stage of a species of *Spongomorpha* by Chihara (1969, Phycologia 8:127-33) and other workers. However, this does not invalidate the genus because the life histories of the type species, *C. lemnae* (an endophyte of *Lemna* in freshwater), and other species, including *C. porphyrae* have not been investigated yet.

The first dichotomy of the *Acrochaetium* key (p. 309) does not enable one to identify *A. rhizoideum* because the erect filaments are considerably longer than the endophytic system. In addition, the illustration of *A. rhizoideum* (Fig. 260) does not show the diagnostic feature of the species, namely the numerous pyrenoids in each cell. Other California species lack a pyrenoid or have a single pyrenoid per cell.

Although there are minor deficiencies such as those mentioned above, the *Marine Algae of California* is exemplary in its overall quality and will serve phycologists well for many years. The authors and publisher should feel pleased with their efforts.—JOHN A. WEST, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

REVIEW

The Tactless Philosopher. Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798). By MICHAEL E. HOARE. x + 419, 13 illus. Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia, 1976. \$15.95. Austr.

The author citation "Forst." (or more accurately Forst. & Forst. f.) is unfamiliar to most California botanists. However, *Dichondra* is one of their 75 new genera published in *Characteres genera plantarum* (1776), which included the first description of New Zealand plants, Queen Charlotte Sound being the probable source of *Dichondra repens*. The want of a "full-length biography" was noted by Michael Hoare in his sketches of the Forsters, father and son, in *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (1972). Now this thoughtful, accurate, and attractive account of the foibles and fortunes of a fumbling Forster of two centuries ago is highly recommended.

E. D. Merrill was Forster's "most trenchant critic" of botanical matters. His condemnation of Forster's use of Solander's generic names is, in Hoare's opinion, unjustified and could not have rested on access to the Banks and Solander specimens

and manuscripts after Cook's Second Voyage (1772-1775). "No such hint or statement appears in even the most private correspondence" (p. 139), Hoare adding, "to argue, as Merrill does, that either Forster depended upon Solander's knowledge and experience for their botany is absurd. Forster admired the Swede's abilities and intellect but scarcely felt beholden to him."

Armchair navigators with Capt. Cook will find Hoare's biography of Forster high adventure. The story tells of New Caledonian "Cookpines," actually Araucarias, mistaken at first by Ferster for basalt columns; of Tahiti where the natives named him Fatara; and much more. There are notes on the Americans, Mannasseh Cutler and Samuel Vaughan, watching for locally published travel narratives that Forster might translate; on Dr. Lettsom and Thomas Pennant in England; and on Kurt Sprengel who was at Forster's deathbed on December 9th, 1798, in Halle. Today the graceful Forster's Tern; a popular dining-hall palm, *Howea forsterana*; the lowly perennial New Zealand genus *Forstera*; and, of all things, a short street in the Fijian town of Suva are visible memories.—JOSEPH EWAN, Department of Biology, Tulane University, New Orleans, La. 70118.

REVIEW

A Gazetteer of the Chihuahuan Desert Region. By JAMES HENRICKSON and RICHARD M. STRAW. xxii + 272 pp., incl. 18 maps. Published by the authors. 1976. Available from Dr. J. S. Henrickson, P.O. Box 8495, University Station, Austin, Tex. 78712. \$12.00 incl. postage; in Texas add applicable sales tax. [Note: A complimentary copy of "Maps of the Chihuahuan Desert Region" (49 pp., offset, 43 by 28 cm.) compiled by José Garcia will be sent with each gazetteer.]

This gazetteer is coordinated with and is intended to be a supplement to M. C. Johnston's work toward a flora of the Chihuahuan Desert Region (CDR). As delimited for floristic treatment, CDR is the plateau between Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental extending from ca 34° N in SE Arizona and S New Mexico to ca 22° N in N Guanajuato and S San Luis Potosi.

The nearly 23,000 entries include place-names for natural (sierras, passes, canyons, lakes, streams) and man-made (cities, villages, ranches, railroad stops, reservoirs) localities. Each entry includes information as to type of locality (pass, village, lake, etc.), state, latitude, longitude, elevation (in meters), source, and serial number. Some peripheral, non-desert place-names are included. Sources of names include numerous maps and published records. The computer programs used in producing the gazetteer allow extraction of partial or alternate listings such as listings by elevation or latitude or listings for subregions within CDR.

The gazetteer includes maps showing county or municipio boundaries for all states in or bordering CDR. The topographic maps (from U.S.G.S. for United States and A.M.S. for Mexico) compiled by Garcia are well reproduced and provide a very useful and welcome supplement.

This compilation of information about CDR will be invaluable to naturalists concerned with the area.—JOHN L. STROTHER, Botany—Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley 94720.